

[< Back to previous page](#)

[Home](#) > [Sports](#) | [Region: Canada](#)

Canada to Hold World's First Martial Arts Games

By Charmaine Millott

Jan 12, 2006

Epoch Times Victoria Staff

Victoria B.C., will be the host of the first World Martial Arts Games on August 18th - 20th, 2006. Promoting the pure ideals of martial arts the World Games' objective is to deliver peaceful competition and foster the universal principle of morality among its competitors.

Among the disciplines featured in the competition will be Sport Ju Jitsu, Kempo, Karate, Wushu, and Tae Kwon Do. Promoters expect it to be the premiere competition of the year for martial artists as 26 member countries have already registered to compete.



1st World Martial Arts Games
VICTORIA2006

"We feel extremely privileged to host the first World Martial Arts Games, in the beautiful city of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada," said Ken Marchtaler, the Chairman of the World Martial Arts Games Committee. "This high-profile mixed martial arts competition, will involve the best of the best from around the world competing for the title of World Martial Arts Games Champion in their respective events. You will not want to miss it!"

Mr. Marchtaler became the president of Team Canada for the World Organization of Martial Arts Athletes this year. He led the team to sweep the medals last summer at the World Martial Arts Games VI in Rosenheim, Germany.

"When I coached Team Canada last summer, I realized that we all have something to offer, not only in skill, but in friendships and support. And there is nothing like representing your country at a world event", says Mr. Marchtaler.

Although there were a lot of misunderstandings among the various disciplines and styles in the martial arts world, Mr. Marchtaler felt there were more similarities than differences having competed in many tournaments over the years.

"We all seem to want to stay away because we feel there is distance between us," he says.

He wished to change that.

Following the games in Rosenheim, a group of National Team Directors came up with the idea of a non-profit, democratic, World Martial Arts Games Organization. This new organization aims to unite the world of martial arts and hold an annual event using excess proceeds to fund a head office. The WMAG committee will assist developing countries with their national martial arts programs. Spearheaded by Alfred Kleinschwaerzer of Germany, the group includes Martin O'Malley of Ireland, Alex Micakovski of Australia, and Ken Marchtaler of Canada.

The founding members are from Pakistan, Switzerland, U.S., Germany, Canada, Australia, and Ireland. They honor the structure of the International Olympic Committee, which is the guiding factor for all international sports. The WMAG Committee hopes that in future the Olympic Games will have a Martial Arts division and operate similar to the World Martial Arts Games format.

European members unanimously felt Victoria was an ideal place to hold the games given its sound political state and central location for the participants.

"I am really excited about what the World Martial Arts Games movement will do for the martial arts," Mr. Marchtaler says, "and I am thrilled about what it will do for the beautiful city of Victoria in 2006."

Further information available at www.worldmartialartsgames.com